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ESP News is a monthly e-newsletter produced and distributed by USAID's Environmental Services Program, or ESP, a five-year program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented under the leadership of Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI). ESP works with government, private sector, NGOs, community groups and other stakeholders to promote better health through improved water resource management and expanded access to clean water and sanitation services. ESP News provides our partners information regarding program activities as well as other news on environmental services management issues in Indonesia.

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Tree-planting in Upper Cibadog River, West Java

Subang. A community group known as Masyarakat Peduli Alam Subang or MAPAS (Subang Community Care Environmental Group), West Java, held a Tree-planting Initiation Ceremony in upper stream of Cibadok River in an effort to rejuvenate three dried up springs. The event was held on Wednesday, 25 January 2006 in Dusun Dampit, Cijambe Village, Cijambe Sub District, Subang District. Appropriate seasonal timing for this activity is important to guarantee optimum plant growth while reducing risks associated with disease and pests.



ESP JAKARTA/WEST JAVA

Representatives from the government, forestry programs, and local villages all attended the event.

This event was attended by Ir. Samsudin The Head of the Department of Forestry and Agriculture Subang District, and a representative from the Government Office of Subang District. Also attending were Ir. Nanang, the head of the Environmental Management Bureau Subang, other representatives from Desa Cijambe village, MAPAS members from other villages in the upper-middle river, and representatives from other forestation programs, such as: Government Forestry and Agriculture Department (Perum Perhutani), the head of Cijambe Village, BPD Cijambe, and the head of Cijambe Sub District.

Local community members contributed to 2,000 of 4,000 tree seedlings, which are planted in the area of state-owned forest company. Mahogany, Durian and Avocado trees are major variants of trees planted that day.

This event was one of a series of tree-planting activities conducted by seven villages: Cijambe, Curugrendeng (Jalan Cagak Sub District), Cijengkol, Sukamandi, Cintamekar, Ponggang, and Cikujang, Sagalaherang Sub District. (Aditiajaya, ESP Jakarta/West Java).

Six Government Officials Attend Water Revolving Fund Workshop

Jakarta. Invitations were issued to six key staff members of various departments of Government of Indonesia to attend a water revolving fund workshop in Manila, Philippines on February 20, 2006. The six individuals are, respectively, from the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Arlan Pakpahan, Director; from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Messrs. Soetirto MPM, Director, and Eko Supbowo PHD, Division Head; from BAPPENAS, Messrs. Basah Hernowo, Director General and Nugroho Utomo, Division Head; and from Ministry of Public Works, Mr. Djoko Muryanto, Director. The officials will be accompanied by Ms. Trigeany Linggoatmodjo, Program Specialist, USAID Basic Human Services and Mr. Robert Parra, Municipal Finance Advisor, Environmental Services Project (ESP).

The purpose of the workshop is to learn about the organization and operation of water revolving funds and, in particular, the status and next steps for implementation of the new Philippines Water Revolving Fund. USAID-Manila, to date, has provided much of the technical assistance associated with the development of the fund, in collaboration with the Government of Japan. Under the US-Japan Clean Water for People Initiative launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, the two governments have launched a partnership designed to expand the provision of safe water and sanitation to the world's poor. The Philippine initiative builds upon existing US and Japanese joint activities in assisting developing countries with water resources management.

Water Revolving Funds, as the name implies, are specialized financial vehicles dedicated to providing long-term debt finance to meet the capital expenditure needs of water and sanitation facilities (see inset above). ESP, in Indonesia, has developed a concept study to create a national water revolving fund for the purpose of assisting the Government of Indonesia to find more effective ways of meeting its Millennium Development Goal pledges which involve, among other matters, financing the expansion of water service delivery, household water connections and access to sanitation facilities throughout the country. The concept is currently under review by the Government of Indonesia, a process which is incidental to the Manila trip and the desire on the part of the above officials to learn about these finance vehicles.

If strong interest in the concept is expressed from the above officials, the next step in the development of a water revolving fund would be to develop a feasibility study with the active participation of a government steering committee made up in part from those individuals who have accepted invitations from USAID to attend the workshop in Manila in late February. (Bob Parra, ESP Jakarta/West Java)

What is a water revolving fund?

No single acceptable definition exists for a water revolving fund (WRF) but the concept generally involves a specialized financial intermediary, usually owned by the public sector, wholly dedicated to the provision of term debt financing of water, sanitation and environmental projects.

The WRF concept was originally created in Canada and the US in the early 1960's and has worked very well to help water utilities institutions to obtain credit and additional capital in those two countries.

Setting the Process: A ToT in Sustainable Livelihoods Assessment



ESP BANDA ACEH/NAD

Community members share a common vision and common concerns; and can work together.

Banda Aceh. A combined Watershed Management (WSM)/Service Delivery (SD) /Environmentally Sound Design (ESD) training of trainers (ToT) in Sustainable Livelihoods Assessment was conducted in Blang Lambaro, part of Saree Aceh village, Lembah Seulawah Sub-district, Aceh Besar District. Saree Aceh is near the north coast of Aceh on the slopes of Mount Seulawah, an extinct volcano. Most of the forests in this region were felled long ago, and alang-alang took hold, conjuring images of the savannahs of Africa. The soil in Blang Lambaro supports at least 12 types of tree crops. Of the 120 households in Blang Lambaro, few have access to water except those located near a solitary irrigation ditch. Only 19 houses have septic systems. Water comes from a lone spring that is located in a protected forest area. Houses are located haphazardly in the fields that families farm, and not in a central residential area.

Sustainable Livelihoods Assessments (SLA) represents a holistic assessment of five assets: human capital, financial capital, social capital, physical capital and natural capital. The goal of the SLA is to promote an interactive assessment of these assets with the community as a whole and together; instigate a series of action plans that draw on the strengths of a particular community to help highlight specific weaknesses to be overcome. Many of the methods used in SLA are based in PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal). Community members made maps of their natural and physical assets. Other activities disclosed further information of other assets. Participatory analysis of the results of the activities produces a holistic analysis that not only helps in activity planning but helps bring to light paths that can be followed to build on strengths to solve problems in the community.

Besides establishing a common understanding of SLA amongst members of the WSM and SD team, the ToT was conducted with at least three other goals in mind, which are building a single team from separate technical teams, WSM, SD, and ESD; developing a shared strategy for selection, assessment and community activities in Aceh and working in a “live” situation and, with the help of a community, develop a plan for integrated ESP activities in the village.



ESP BANDA ACEH/NAD

Developing a plan for integrated ESP activities in the village.

These goals were achieved. The various ESP teams discovered that the community members shared a common vision and common concerns; that they can work together. In many ways the Environmentally Sound Design (ESD) perspective pulled together the (SD) and Watershed Management (WSM) perspectives. The people of Blang Lambaro have a problem with water. The SD team worked on that and the WSM team looked at the issue from a water resource perspective. The ESD perspective brought the two together through a workable and sustainable design that was further developed with the people of Blang Lambaro. The SD component helped participants to examine their agricultural potential and the WSM component deepened this analysis which will serve as the basis for an eventual agro-forestry field school. These two activities will serve as the foundation for ESP Aceh's "mini ESP" program in Blang Lambaro. (*John Pontius, ESP Banda Aceh/NAD*)

USAID Worldwide CRSP Joins Hands with ESP North Sumatra.

Medan. The USAID Collaborative Research Program (CRSP) in Integrated Pest Management has agreed to collaborate with ESP North Sumatra, FIELD, and the Karo District Government to conduct farmer training while supporting research in the upper Deli River watershed. The rampant overuse of agrochemicals in this watershed poisons farmers, reduces farm profits, damages soil fertility, contaminates ground water, and prevents export of locally grown crops. Nearly half of all pesticides in use in North Sumatra are applied to vegetable and tree crops in Karo District; with the headwaters of the Deli River receiving lethal doses of harmful agricultural chemicals. The USAID IPM CRSP led by Clemson University will work with ESP and FIELD staff to significantly reduce the impact of chemicals used in vegetable growing in the fields which drain directly into the Deli River in the villages of Semangat Gunung and Doulu. Farmer Field Schools are to be launched with local communities to help reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, improve soil fertility, reduce risks to farmer health and improve water quality.



ESP MEDAN/NORTH SUMATRA

Clemson professors and FIELD personnel paid a program launching visit to North Sumatra ESP in early January, where they visited potential sites and undertook transects of vegetable fields.



ESP MEDAN/NORTH SUMATRA

Farmer Field Schools are to be launched with local communities to help reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, improve soil fertility, reduce risks to farmer health and improve water quality.

Clemson professors Merle Shepard (entomology), Mike Hammig (agricultural economics) and Gerry Carner (entomopathology) plus FIELD personnel Nugroho Wienarto and Engkus Kuswara paid a program launching visit to North Sumatra ESP in early January. The full team visited potential sites, undertook transects of vegetable fields, and talked with local Government officials, members of the KERINA community network, and most importantly with a wide range of farmers in villages in the upper Deli River watershed. Baseline activities are now underway, and four Farmer Field Schools are set to commence activities in March 2006. The goal of the collaborative effort is to change farmer behavior with regard to agricultural chemicals by introducing sustainable, ecological agriculture across the entire Doulu-Semangat Gunung valley at the uppermost reaches of the Deli River, and in the process, create a lasting model for the whole Karo District. *(Russ Dilts, ESP Medan/North Sumatra)*



USA and Japan work hand in hand in Percut River, Medan, North Sumatra

Medan. In September 2002, the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Japan launched the Clean Water for People Initiative, a joint endeavor aimed primarily to expand the provision of safe water supplies and sanitation to the world's poor. This partnership is known as the Municipal Water and Waste Management Partnership (MWWMP). Since the signing of the MOU in Medan in June 2005, USA (ESP-USAID) and Japan (Japan Bank International Cooperation - JBIC Medan Flood Control Project) have established a project to mitigate flood damage, storm water and Solid Waste management along the Deli and Percut rivers, develop the environmental functions of rivers and enhance regional development. The locations have been selected by agreement between ESP-USAID and of CTI-JBIC.



ESP MEDAN/NORTH SUMATRA

Existing condition of domestic waste on Percut River where the location has been selected.

Upon completion of participatory methods for assessing solid waste problems in the Percut River area (Stakeholders Identification, Transect Walks, Focus Group Discussion, Questionnaire and Community Workshops), the CB Watsan ESP North Sumatra office in Medan was visited by delegations from JBIC, Prof. Masaru Tanaka, Mr. Yoichi Yamamoto, Mr. Susumu Shimura and Mr. Hitomi Katsumi on 9 and 12 December 2006. Both sides presented progress-to-date and their experiences with solid waste management. Currently, ESP has advanced through the selection of 10 local community facilitators who will work with the community to develop solid waste management plans and activities beginning in February 2006. ESP has also enlisted the assistance of a local NGO with expertise in plastic recycling to help with solid waste management training for the community. *(Juliansyah & Eri Erianto, ESP Medan/North Sumatra)*

“Let’s Wash Our Hands with Soap”



ESP JAKARTA/WEST JAVA

The event kicked off with hand painting and signing activities on a white banner.

a white banner, followed by the washing of hands with soap as a symbol of commitment to the campaign, thus reiterating a habit that local community organizers will regularly advocate.

In Padalarang, approximately 500 children from local kindergarten and elementary schools expressed their commitment to hand-washing through coloring pictures, drawing and creative writing. Furthermore, hundreds of under-five mothers took part in dance and wash basin design competitions.

Despite a smaller number of participants, it was an enthusiastic crowd of around 700 people that gathered in Tamansari to attend the “Health Happening” event. PDAM from Bandung Municipality sprinkled the area to prevent excessive dust and provided water for the custom-designed wash basins.

Both village chiefs, Asep Saefudin of Padalarang and Deni Sirajudin of Tamansari believe that the event provided the communities with an apt reinforcement of local government efforts to improve public health while rejuvenating a spirit of self-sufficiency in handling local problems in both villages. (Sugiantoro, ESP Jakarta/West Java)

Bandung. Health Happening: “Let’s Wash Our Hands with Soap” is the motto of a three-month hand washing with soap campaign conducted by Health Post Cadres, Kindergarten and Elementary School Teachers as well as community leaders in Bandung District. These agents of change are supported by KuS (Koalisi untuk Indonesia Sehat – Coalition for a Healthy Indonesia) West Java as field facilitator and Environmental Services Program of USAID. The events took place on 19 and 21 January 2006 in Padalarang and Tamansari Village, Bandung District.

The event kicked off with hand painting and signing activities on



ESP JAKARTA/WEST JAVA

Children from local kindergarten and elementary schools expressed their commitment to hand washing through coloring pictures, drawing and creative writing.



Head Office/ West Java

Ratu Plaza Building 17th Floor
Jl. Jenderal Sudirman No. 9
Jakarta 10270
Tel.: + 62-21-720-9594
Fax: + 62-21-720- 4546

Regional Offices

ESP East Java

Wisma Darmala 7th Floor,
Suite 3A
Jl. Panglima Sudirman 101-103,
Surabaya,
Jawa Timur
Tel.: + 62-31-600-02346
Fax: + 62-31-600-02349

ESP Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam

Jl. Teuku Iskandar No. 74,
Lamglumpang, Ulee Kareng,
Banda Aceh
NAD
Tel.: + 62-651-28282

ESP North Sumatra

Jl. Slamet Riyadi No. 6
Medan 20152
Sumatera Utara
Tel.: +62-61-453-1007
Fax: +62-61-451-2884

ESP West Sumatra

Jl. Semarang No. A 30
Asratek
Ulak Karang Timur
Padang 25135
Sumatera Barat
Tel.: +62-751-705-7699
+62-751-705-6014
Fax.: +62-751-705-2023

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Post Tsunami Clean Water Supply in Banda Aceh: “A Hope and Challenge”



ASEP MULYANA ESP JAKARTA/BANDA ACEH

Banda Aceh. The City of Banda Aceh and the west coast were seriously affected by the tsunami and a significant proportion of sea water (and various pollutants) seeped into the ground and contaminated any reserves of clear shallow-lying underground water thus ruling out another potential underground source of clean drinking water.

The availability of clean water relies primarily on a source, whether it is from surface water (rivers, springs, lakes, rumen wells) or underground water (deep or shallow wells). In order to support these activities and discover sources of this seemingly ubiquitous material, ESP-USAID has undertaken extensive hidrology studies to locate suitable resources of clean water and to answer the following question: Which sources are likely to meet user needs both in the short and long term?

Geological hidrology studies in the City of Banda Aceh and the west coast of Aceh soon revealed that underground water reserves were unlikely to provide any great potential. Unsuitable rock formations, limestone, volcanic rocks and fine sediments that characterize the region are not good underground water aquifers. It quickly became apparent that surface water was likely to provide the most reliable source – cheaper and easier to process. Surface water supply relies heavily on watershed maintenance and management, and, in this case, to maintain the water-retaining function of forests within the watershed areas.

The Krueng Aceh watershed and various other watersheds on the west coast were identified as crucial sources of water supply for both the City of Banda Aceh and other towns on the west coast.

Rising to the challenge, ESP-USAID undertook an introductory hidrology survey, and collected data that showed that deforestation was severely affecting the function of the upper Krueng Aceh river to retain water. Furthermore, in order to protect the surface water supply from Krueng Aceh, policy and procedure had to be put into place to preserve remaining water retaining forests and to rehabilitate heavily deforested areas so that essential water retention functions could be restored.

In an effort to gain greater knowledge and thus provide more efficient water management control, comprehensive and accurate data on geology, hidrology, weather and forestry had to be collected. Data collection equipment such as automatic weather stations and river gauging stations were strategically placed in key areas to provide further input. (Asep AS. Mulyana, ESP Jakarta/NAD)